

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

**and**

**ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**of the**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy

Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday June 7, 2006.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Wayne Horsley • Chairman

Legislator Rick Montano • Vice•Chair

Legislator Tom Barraga

Legislator Jon Cooper

Legislator Lynne Nowick

Legislator William Lindsay • Acting Member

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan • Counsel to the Legislature.

Joe Schroeder • Budget Review Office

Joe Muncey • Budget Review Office

Renee Ortiz • Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

Ben Zwirn • County Executive's Office

Carolyn Fahey • Economic Development

Charles Stein • Suffolk Community College

George Gatta • Suffolk Community College

James Morgo • Commissioner • Economic Development

All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano • Court Stenographer

**( \* THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:49 A.M. \* )**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

May we all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **SALUTATION**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

May we all stand for a moment of silence for those men and women who are protecting our freedoms across the sea.

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much. Please be seated. All right. Good morning, everybody and welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee Meeting of June 6th. The good news in starting the day is that our presentation unfortunately couldn't be here today so. And the reason why I say it's good news is because I see we have a number of people who would like to speak. We will start right in on the public portion of this committee hearing. May I call up George Gatta from the Suffolk County Community College. Welcome, George. Always a pleasure.

**MR. GATTA:**

Could I ask the Chair if Dr. Pippins from the college could speak first, is that possible?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Absolutely.

**MR. GATTA:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

You were just the top of the pile, George, as you are always are.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

He who does the good work should be at the top, right? Good morning. It's pleasure to again address the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature. I will take this opportunity to once again thank you for your continued support of the college's Operating and Capital Programs. With your support, we have continued our pursuit of excellence and produced impressive results.

At your desk, I believe, is the latest version of our view book, which reflect those impressive results, and I hope you will take a few minutes to look through it. The results that we've produced together are both fiscal and human. These results are the outcomes of the powerful life transformative impact of the college's educational and training experiences. The experiences

provide a range of intellectual, academic and behavioral skills that enhance self concept and provide economic development opportunities for individuals and families.

Today, I stand before you to ask for your support in our efforts to expand access and opportunities to these life transforming experiences. Our HVAC Program is an excellent example of the synergistic impact of the education the college provides with your support. This program responds to industry needs, is supported through a strong partnership with the Oil Heat Institute. It gives the participants the opportunity to acquire skills that allows us to fulfill our goal of meeting the needs of area business. The program in turn fuels the local economy, creating a strong competitive workforce both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Graduates have the opportunity to secure position which allow them to continue to live in Suffolk County enjoying the fine quality of life we have all grown to love, especially me after three years. At a time when residents and young families are leaving Long Island at five times the national average, at a time when jobs are continuously being outsourced and Suffolk County is seeking to increase its competitiveness on not just a regional level, but on a state and national and international level, the HVAC Program is the type of initiative we need.

The college is prepared to offer this important opportunity to our citizens in a model that does not compete with local unions and at the same time expand access and opportunities for our citizens. In the past you have made strategic visionary decisions that have supported the college's initiatives. We have produced impressive results. The Allied Health Program in Sayville is an excellent example. The Culinary Arts Center is an exemplary project in the works. With your support, the HVAC Center will be yet another shining example of the Suffolk County Legislature's efforts to provide opportunities

for citizens and build a world class workforce essential to the success of our region. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Dr. Pippins. All right. George, you are number two.

**MR. GATTA:**

Thank you. Good morning. There are a number of interested parties here this morning of behalf ir IR 1511, HVACR building at our Grant Campus. The project as outlined in a letter that I recently sent to Jack Kennedy at the Building Trades Council been in the works for about six years. The program itself has been teaching students, has been in operation for three years. You will see the chronology of events starting with the first proposal to the County for request of capital funding going from there to inclusion in the State University's Capital Program two years later, approval of curriculums for both the Associate Degree and One Year Certificate Program, the start of the program in '03, a memorandum of understanding and significant financial support from the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island through its educational subsidiary, the Oil Heat Comfort Corporation, and that continues and that memorandum has •• and Kevin Rooney, I believe will discuss that, through where we are today with a facility and the funds that have already been appropriated for the design of the facility by this Legislature. The project has been in the County's Capital Program for a number of years. And 1511 would appropriate the funding for the construction of the facility.

We heard about two weeks ago that there were some concerns from some of the construction trades. Immediately upon hearing that, I did contact Jack and ask for a meeting. We're working on that. We've not been able to secure a date yet. The County Executive's Office did reach out to me a

couple of days ago, and his labor people will also be trying to help mediate and bring the parties together. It's our intention to work cooperatively with all of unions out there. I'm sure you will hear from many of the subsequent speakers that most of our graduates, in fact, go on to work in union shops. There is a tremendous need for this type of training not just in this region but around the country. It's much like the nursing shortage, many of the qualified HVAC technicians are retiring over the next five years. And aside from the shortage that currently exists, it will be further exacerbated by those retirements.

So we ask for your support for the project. We are certainly willing to meet with any group to understand their concerns and have them learn more about our program. We are not the only program out there. There are some private schools that are currently teaching it within Suffolk County. We are mindful that there is a school that is union run in New York City. And, again, you know, we think that we'd very much like to work in cooperation to get this project done for the college, for the students, for their families and for the region. So with that, if you have any questions about that communication, which I think was faxed to your offices on Friday, I would be glad to respond.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Gatta. Are there any questions from the Legislature? Thank you very much. All right. Dr. James Caniff from Suffolk County Community College. Good morning.

**MR. CANIFF:**

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you today. In my role as Vice•President for Academic and Student Affairs at the College, I get



directly involved in the development of programs throughout the three campuses. I want to start by saying that Suffolk County Community College has the only Associate Degree in a credit program in a public college on Long Island. I think it's very important for everyone to understand that.

Secondly, we did not develop this program in a vacuum. This industry came to Suffolk Community College as many as six, seven, eight years ago to ask us to initiate this program. We did a needs assessment at that time, submitted the appropriate curriculum. At the time we got some help from Hudson Valley Community College up in Troy, because they have a HVAC Program. And we put the program together and got it approved through our own sources throughout the college as well as the State University of New York State and the State Education Department. So we have registered programs.

This program is developed, again, in response to industry needs. It's our technicians who graduate from this program that help maintain and install heating and air conditioning equipment for both residential and commercial applications. What is interesting about this program is it provides at least 34 credits of technical education specifically related to this field. But in addition, it provides a rich mix of the Liberal arts and Sciences, English, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, all those other disciplines that help round out ones education.

As Vice•President Gatta mentioned, we also have a Certificate Program that for those individuals who want to go directly into industry and who do not want the Associate Degree, we have an option for them. What is good about that option is for those students who change their mind at the end of that option, that entire option can be transferred into our Associate Degree. This is from my view a very, very important program for us. It's another demonstration of our partnership with businesses and industry.

As a matter of fact, this program demonstrates in my view, the unique position that community colleges have within Higher Education. We are able to take needs and respond to them very, very quickly. And across this country there are over 1100 community colleges. That's one of the hallmarks of our mission and our reason to be participating in Higher Education today.

I strongly ask for your support •• continued support for this program. I will quote from one segment of our catalog. By combining career based courses such as systems design, diagnostic, servicing and control with real•life hands •on training through internships in intensive laboratory sessions, the HVACR curriculum teamed with the grounding in the Liberal Arts provides student with the credentials and the experience needed to obtain employment upon successfully completing this program. That's succinctly describes what this program is about, what this initiative is about. Again, I want to thank you for the time and would appreciate your support in getting the kind of facility that would allow us to enlarge this program and further development it. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Dr. Caniff. Are there any questions of Dr. Caniff? Again, thank you very much. Kevin Rooney of the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island.

**MR. ROONEY:**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Kevin Rooney, I am the chief Executive Officer of both the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island and the Oil Heat Comfort Corporation. Whereas

OHI represents the broad interest of the petroleum industry on Long Island, OHCC, Oil Heat Comfort has as its primary mission a far narrower focus.

That mission entails the continuing technical education of our existing oil heat service technicians and the development and training of our future workforce. To that end, OHCC is a contractual partner and financial supporter of the HVACR Program at the Grant Campus of Suffolk Community College.

Started some three years ago in an adapted classroom in the Nesconset Building, the program has steadily grown from its modest beginnings to become a highly successful program. To date, some 450 students have taken courses at this facility; young men and women pursuing an education and a career post-high school, working adults who are primarily part-time evening students seeking a career change, currently employed HVAC service technicians seeking upward mobility in their chosen profession through their continuing education classes all have and continue to benefit from this program.

Regardless of whether the Community College students are enrolled in the one year certificate or two year Associate Degree Programs of the College, they will have achieved in their time at Suffolk both the technical skills needed to either enter the workforce or continue their bachelorette studies as well as a solidly grounded education in the Liberal Arts core curriculum. The problem, which both industry and the college must deal with however, is the physical space limitations of the current facility, which do not allow us to expand the program and make it available to all who wish to enroll.

As a result, potential applicants are deferred to a waiting list and key

communities continue to be underserved. In addition, there is a single operational laboratory of very limited size, which is used for all hands-on training in the areas of hydronic forced air and radiant heating, domestic water heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration. Student projects, that is training modules, which they construct as part of their technical education are simply piled on top of each other because there is no available storage area.

Suffice it to say that if this program is to continue to grow to meet the anticipated demand for highly trained heating and cooling service technicians, if it is to be effective and successful in core mission of training tomorrow's workforce, then it simply cannot remain in its current location. And that is why the college has proposed to build a significantly larger separate stand-alone state-of-the-art facility to house the program. And that is why I have appeared before this committee on numerous occasions to voice our support for such a facility. And that is why this committee and the full Legislature have approved the funding for the planning and design for such a facility. And that is why I stand before you today to voice our strong unambiguous and unequivocal support for Introductory Resolution 1511, an appropriation which would allow for the construction of new facility to proceed.

One final point, if I may, Mr. Chairman. We have heard that some members of the construction trades unions are opposed to this resolution on the grounds that any expansion of this program will adversely affect their existing apprenticeship training programs. Let me assure my many friends in the Long Island labor community that the graduates of this program seeking employment in either the oil and gas heating industries or with the many HVACR service companies operating in the bi-county region will invariably find themselves working as dues-paying members of a union shop.

The purpose of this program and the need for this new facility is not about

protecting the prerogatives or territory of a particular union or a particular local. The purpose is to train a 21st Century workforce with all of the technical and academic skills which they will need to be successful, productive members of our community. We, therefore, very strongly urge your positive vote on IR 1511, and I thank you for time and attention.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you, Mr. Rooney. Mr. Hohn Griffin of General Utilities, Plainview, Nassau•Suffolk Oil Heat Service.

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. You will have to forgive me, I'm not used to speaking in front of the board as the previous speakers are. So if I'm a little nervous, please put up with me. My name is John Griffin, I'm the service manager with General Utilities. We currently have 75 plus service technicians and delivery personnel that are members of 355 Union.

I just wanted to speak very briefly about what the oil industry is at today. When I started in the industry back in 1970, I started out as a truck driver in New York City. At that time my employer saw something in me that was little mechanical aptitude, I guess, and I didn't realize it as many young student today don't realize they have the mechanical aptitude. He told me that the best training I could get was at a BOCES School in Nassau County, which I went to in Hempstead. I didn't even know where Hempstead was, I'm from Queens. I know manage and direct, like I said, over 70 service technicians. The company employs 25 drivers.

The mean average of our services technician today are my age, we are gratefully looking towards retirement, and a well deserved one. We need to train the next generations of technicians now. The school is doing a very good job of that. There are huge numbers of oil heat homes on Long island. We need to provide maintenance personnel for them, qualified maintenance personnel on tis equipment. Many of them are your homes. These many youngsters who will not be going to •• there are many youngsters who will not be going to a formal college on Long Island. These are the students that we need to address, that we want to train.

When Oil Heat Institute announced the school, I looked at this as a solution to problem, and I believe it is. Prior to this, we have sent •• my company has sent students, trainees, out•of•state in order to get training. Why are we sending people up to Massachusetts to the New England Fuel Institute when we have the training right here on Long Island? Why not keep the dollars here on Long Island? Given the present situation and the manpower needs of our industry, we strongly support •• my company strongly supports the current HVACR Program at Suffolk Community college. We strongly support the Resolution 1511, and we hope you support it also. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Griffin. Okay. Thank you very much. Mr. Bill Rella of Patterson Energy, Floral Park. Mr. Rella.

**MR. RELLA:**

Good morning. Again, like John Griffin said, I am not a public speaker. My name is William Rella, I'm the service manager at Patterson Fuel. I currently have 18 members of Local 553 between drivers and service technicians that work for me. In the next five or eight years, half of that workforce will be

retiring. Given the present manpower situation in the heating industry, we at Patterson strongly support the program that's now at Suffolk Community College. We support the present program, and we support the upcoming availability for the Resolution of 1511, to appropriate funds for the new program that they're introducing. I hope you support it also. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Rella. Mr. Dan Osciello, Petroleum Heat and Power of Yaphank.

**MR. OSCIELLO:**

Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I'll keep this brief. Like some of my partners, I'm a technician by trade. For the record, my name is Dan Osciello. I'm presently the President of the Nassau•Suffolk Service Managers Association. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Oil Heat Service Managers.

I'm employed by Petro on Long Island as a manager. Petro is one of biggest •• well, one of the largest fuel companies throughout the country. In my depot, we have approximately 100 service techs an oil drivers, truck mechanics, and in our sister depot in Plainview, we also have an additional hundred. There are members of Local 355. We have several other unions in our company in the Long Island region.

So quite •• you know, all of our technicians on Long Island do belong to one union or other. And there are, you know, well paid professional service



techs. One of the problems we have in the industry is finding, attracting, training qualified service techs. Just try to understand what we do. This is a very, very unique business. It's not like you can look in the phonebook or I could call the trade hall and say, hey, I need five guys, send me three electricians, three plumbers, three this, three that. This doesn't happen.

Our technicians, the professional service techs, they work various shifts 24 hours a day to provide real 24 hour services. What I mean by 24 hour service, not like some of the ads in the newspapers that will call you back within 24 hours. No. You call two o'clock in the morning and you and your family are cold, we are going to get a technician there, and, you know, you're going to have heat by the time he's finished. We're not •• you know, could you imagine the technician telling you, well, gee, you know, I'm not really familiar with this modern equipment, I can't fix it. Well, that's what we're trying to do. It's just like the automotive industry. The technology changes so fast that we have to constantly upgrade and train these technicians.

You know, in the world of, you know, large corporations and even small businesses, people to compete, they seem to downsize, you lose the education department, you lose the training department. Well, this fills of void, this school. I've sent technicians who are straight oil technicians, cross train them for AC, come of school working today doing well. So it's a constant, constant education thing. The mission of the Service Managers Association is education. I mean, that's what we're all about. We also have {NUERON} Gold Certificate, okay, which is recognized in other states for various licenses and what have you. And all these classes, the technicians do earn CEUs for their continuing education. So that's it.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Mr. Osciello, I'm going to ask you to wrap it up, please?



**MR. OSCIELLO:**

Yes. Yes. Okay. Well, that's it. We strongly support Resolution 1511, to add to this, you know, new building for the school. I think it would be a win •win situation for Long Island.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much. I have •• I'm a Petro customer myself. You guys do a good job. All right. Mr. Wayne Lawrence, Petro Meenan Oil, Plainview.

**MR. LAWRENCE:**

Good morning. I am Wayne Lawrence. I'm a service technician at Petro Oil. I've also been a student at some of the HVAC courses at Suffolk Community College. These courses have given myself and fellow service technicians an opportunity to advance in our trades. As a result of my training, I am able to service oil, gas and air conditioning equipment. I'm also member of Union Local 355, United Service Workers. And I ask for support of this resolution. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Lawrence. All right. Mr. John Hughes of Slomin's, Incorporated.

**MR. HUGHES:**

Good morning. I'm John Hughes. I'm not much of a talker, so this will be quick. I do represent Slomin's, I'm an assistant service manager over there, Local 355. We employ 150 services techs, and we do send nine to ten students a year at that school. We do support it and the company also supports school. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Hughes. Mr. Kevin Peterman of the Faculty Association of Suffolk Community College.

**MR. PETERMAN:**

Good morning. As you mentioned my name is Kevin Peterman. I'm Executive Vice•President of the Faculty Association at the College. And what I'm handing out is something you might already have, but I just wanted to make sure you had it. It's basically the curriculum and the course descriptions for the program.

The Faculty Association represents both full and part time at the College. We also affiliate with New York State United Teachers, the American Federation of Teachers the AFL•CIO, and, yes, we are members of the Long Island Federation of Labor. I'm just here briefly to mention that I'm glad to be part of the any discussions about what the program is, which is an AAS Degree, and what it is not, which is an apprenticeship program. I'm just letting you know that if there is some meeting that needs to be held, I gladly will be a part of that to meet with fellow union leaders to discuss what the college really is trying to do here. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Peterman. All right. Mr. Michael O'Rourke from the Best Climate Control Corporation.

**MR. O'ROURKE:**

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm Mike O'Rourke, I'm the President of Best Climate Control Corporation. I have 18 employees. Our office is in Bohemia, and I'm a Local 638 contractor. I'm a graduate of the SUNY Farmingdale Program in 1973, went on and received my Bachelor's Degree at CW Post and eventually started my open business.

I've been fortunate enough to provide air conditioning and refrigeration services to Suffolk County. We maintain all the air conditioning and refrigeration for all the County buildings for many, many years. Three of our employees are currently graduates of the SUNY Farmingdale Program, which is basically what we're trying to get for Suffolk Community College Program. We install the air conditioning, servicing through all Nassau and Suffolk County.

About six years ago, I approached the College asking them to start up a program that SUNY Farmingdale used to have and had the opportunity to spend many, many hours in meetings to get the HVAC Program started at the College. I'm really happy. This year was our first year we had a graduating class. I've worked with the college many, many times since then in getting the program together. I've worked with industry, I've taken the College to the Local 638 training program in Long Island City to show them how it was set up, got their support, received support from the industry to show the College there was a need, and we're fortunate that we have the program.

What we're asking for today is to try to enhance the program to try to get a building so we don't have to share it with everyone else. We need the program, because the only way we can grow, especially in Suffolk County and I can get my company to grow is basically to steal employees from other people because of supply and demand. And that's what we're trying to do. It's nothing to do with union, nonunion or anything, it's just to get a person educated, whether that person is going to the school to become a service technician and graduate and go on to perhaps become a project manager or a sales engineer. I have one of my employees who went through program, got his Bachelor's Degree and now is my Chief Engineer, he has his PE Degree. He works with the County all the time. Through this program, he was able to do that. So I ask for your support in Resolution 1511. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Mr. O'Rourke. By the way, do you have any idea why Farmingdale dropped the course?

**MR. O'ROURKE:**

Farmingdale dropped the course about 13 years ago because at the time there wasn't a great need for HVAC. People at that time, they were only graduating about six people a semester, but then because of the industry expanding and getting into so many different things, there definitely was a need. That's why we ending up showing the College great need for it.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Just a quick comment. I am so impressed that you had an idea and you actually took the steps to bring to it to fruition. Congratulations. Wonderful.

**MR. O'ROURKE:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Mr. O'Rourke.

**MR. O'ROURKE:**

You are welcome.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. Tom Breedon of the Guild of Administrative Offices at the Suffolk Community College.

**MR. BREEDEN:**

Good morning. I'm always honored to address the sponsors of your Community College. I want to thank you for past support, and I want to thank you for your anticipated support both on this issue and again in early August. What America needs is strong thoughtful government. One of your many roles in establishing the Community College, one of your many motivations is to provide meaningful interesting work that will keep people in Suffolk County.

There was 60 Minutes piece in the last year or so, if you call for customer service, take a guess where your call more than likely goes to. It more than likely goes to India, because India is an English-speaking country, and with education, people can speak English so that they sound like they are here. These are jobs that will provide high salaries that cannot be outsourced. There's no way that an air conditioning repair man can be in India. These are jobs that will provide meaningful work for residents of Suffolk County who will be able to stay here and pay the taxes that are necessary to support the high quality of life we all enjoy.

This is a pattern that the Community College has had for many, many years. This is not new. When I first came to the Community College 22 years ago, we had programs like electrical technology, which we still have. If you look at the curriculum for this major, you will notice similarities to our electrical technology program, technical mathematics, MA•41, PH•24, technical physics. These are courses that we've had for over 20 years. So there's nothing about this program that's been developed to suddenly try to cut into anyone else's territory.

Finally, I will close by saying that this new building will be built with union laborers, many of whom live in Suffolk County. So thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Breeden. I'm sorry, Tom •• Legislator Barraga.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

The program currently exists, but I guess the facility is inadequate, right?

**MR. BREEDEN:**

Correct.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

That's why you need a brand new building. What, is the square footage too small, too congested, what campus is this on.

**MR. BREEDEN:**

It's on the Grant Campus. You are asking me questions, I will wing it, but I'm not an expert as it is on the West Campus, and I live on the Ammerman Campus, but my understanding is that the square footage is just too small to allow for expansion.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

And this building will go on the same campus?

**MR. BREEDEN:**

Would go on the Grant Campus.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

And this is all done be serial bonds over 15 years?

**MR. BREEDEN:**

If I could yield to someone who knows what they're talking about.

**MR. GATTA:**

I may not have all the information, but I have some of it. Yes, it's part of the County Capital Program. It's 50% funding by the State University of New York through their Capital Program, 50% by the County. The money for the design has already been appropriated by the Legislature. And the building is in design.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Pay back is roughly about three and a half million over 15 years?

**MR. GATTA:**



I don't have that information, that would be something I would defer to the Budget Office on. In terms of the facility, yes, it's located on the Grant Campus. It is in temporary •• it is in a temporary facility in the Nesconset building. I believe there are •• there's one full lab, there's a second computer lab and there's a third instructional space, but it is not what we need for •• you know, when you have all of the technologies in one lab, it's just not what it should be. So you've got heating, ventilating, air conditioning, refrigeration, you've got gas, you've got oil. And you need a different lab space to teach the new technologies and the various components of equipment in each of these technologies.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

In addition to the new building, the existing space, will that continue to be used for the program as well?

**MR. GATTA:**

No, it won't. The existing space will be converted back to regular instructional space within that facility. We are very tight for space at the Grant Campus. And for the Legislators who recently attended the tour we gave you, some of you toured the new modular building. There's a new instructional building on that campus that's a modular building that was installed. It has a life of about ten years. That was put in because it takes projects like this six, eight, ten years at times to construct a permanent building. Based on the growth in enrollment over the past five years, which approaches 23% at that campus, we have been forced to use those modular buildings for instructional space.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Okay. I don't want to put you on the spot, but I mean, I've listened to seven or eight speakers in favor of program. Is there anybody that you're aware of that opposes this?

**MR. GATTA:**

The only opposition I have had that we've heard of is the conversation I had with Jack Kennedy where he said there were some construction unions •• members of the Construction Trade Council who were opposed. The letter, again, asked for a meeting so that we could understand that opposition of those concerns. And, you know, again, we have been in discussions over the past few days through the County Executive's Office trying to set up a meeting so we can actually hear what the concerns where. I think you've hear today resounding support for the program. It's much needed and one that will benefit the college and the region.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

We have additional cards. We are not done. Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually this might be more appropriate for Kevin. You want to wait until after the speakers •• Kevin, you want to come up very quickly, because there were ••

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Why don't we hear everyone?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Kevin, if you don't mind, let's hear them and then if I have questions, I'll ask you to come back.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Not a question. Just Legislator Barraga, I just wanted to tell you that having been to the HVAC unit, one of the reasons that it is small is because understand when you are being taught on certain machines, there are big machines there, big air conditioning machines right in this little room. So I think that that's probably another reason they're getting squeezed out. I don't know if you have gotten a change to get over there, but it's small.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Barraga, did you want to question the debt service issues with •• at this point, or did you want to wait until •• I know you had a question there and it wasn't answered.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Who the person who can answer the question. It's a serial bond for 2.5 million, I understand over 15 years, the pay back is about three and a half million dollars.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I'll get it for you, Legislator Barraga. There should be a fiscal impact statement.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

I'm just confirming what I have front of me, that's all. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

We are good?

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

We are good.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Great. All right. Mr. Eric Schmitter, Petro.

**MR. SCHMITTER:**

Good morning. My name is Eric Schmitter. I'm a field service supervisor, Western Long Island, of Petro Oil. We currently employ 94 delivery and heating equipment service personnel who are dues-paying members for Local 553, and that's the Teamsters Union. I strongly support the introduction to this resolution and urge your support as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much. On another topic, Moke McGowan, Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**MR. MCGOWAN:**

For the record, Moke McGowan, President of the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau. I'm here today in support of Introductory Resolution 1597 and would ask for your support in approving and authorizing a contract between the County and the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau to provide the promotional marketing and sales elements and activities to enhance Suffolk County's as well as Long Island's tourism industry.

As you may be aware, we have been operating absent of a contract since December 31, 2005. Having gone through the bid process and responding to that bid and being successfully, if you will, the best bidder in that process, we have continued to provide, if you will, these promotional services. Now, as organization we didn't shut down, we didn't stop marketing and promoting

and selling Long Island and Suffolk County. We continued very vigorously and aggressively to maintain the implementation of our marketing plan which commenced at the beginning of this fiscal year. And I'm very pleased at that, because probably about two years we would not have been able to do that, we would not have been fiscally capable of doing that and operating absent a contract for five to six months at a time.

Because we have strongly reestablished our fiscal integrity and our fiscal assets, we have been able to continue on. I would like to say a couple of things if I may with regards to this particular contract. When we first received a copy from Commissioner Morgo's Office, there were two or three elements within the contract that were highly contended by members of our Board of Director or a number of our board members. I was very grateful and very appreciative to Commissioner Morgo for the opportunity to sit down and spend some very excellent time discussing, negotiating and ultimately resolving these issues to the satisfaction all.

Most notably, there is an element that calls for the allocation of 3.3% of the hotel taxes dollars collected and paid to the bureau to be dedicated to the development and implementation of a cultural program. That is something that we were able to resolve and were looking forward to working with the County and the development that portion of the plan as well as its implementation.

Again, I can't say enough about the relationship of communication in working with Commissioner Morgo and his fine staff. And we look forward to continuing that in the future. I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have with regards to the contract.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you, Mr. McGowan. Just quickly on the Cultural Arts Program, when would you be unveiling this as far as what the plans are, the expenditures and the like?

**MR. MCGOWAN:**

We currently are working under an existing marketing plan, and so what we would probably immediately do is sit down with in all likelihood, Michelle Stark. We have also identified and created a Cultural Arts Committee, and we need to gain their quick input recognizing that we are midway through the year and that we want to be able to, I think, spend these dollars in an appropriate and productive fashion within the next six months, we still need to have that input in order to develop it. I was suspect that we can come to some kind of a program easily within the next two months.

I'm to provide within the next 30 days a midyear report on the activities of the bureau that Commissioner Morgo will be presenting to the Legislature as we are required to do. All of those, again, if you would keep in mind, when we received that report, all those activities were done absent of the contract while we waited for the ultimate consummation of the contract.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

So we'll be hearing from you at that point in time. Thank you. I appreciate that. Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Good morning. How are you? I was just skimming through the contract, and I didn't see a dollar amount. I think that what I'm reading here, and just verify that, the dollar amount is 66 and two-thirds of all the tax revenues?

**MR. MCGOWAN:**

Yes. Suffolk County institutes a three-quarters percent tax on lodging. We receive 66 and two-thirds percent of that. The balance of that, I believe, goes to the Department of Parks and also Cultural Heritage Development.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Do you know how much 66 and two-thirds was last year?

**MR. MCGOWAN:**

We projected it at about approximately \$1.087 million. So roughly 1.1. I expect that that's going to be projected higher for 2007. In actuality, it probably will come in slightly higher than that for this year.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

And that's also not offset, but, I mean, from what I understand in looking at the contract quickly. Nassau also provides the same amount?

**MR. MCGOWAN:**



Nassau County collects, because of the difference between the number of hotel rooms you'll find in Nassau County versus here in Suffolk County, they actually •• we're projecting them only to generate about \$700,000. The difference between the million•one \$700,000 is dedicated to a Suffolk { Centric} Program.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Mr. McGowan. Any further questions?

**MR. MCGOWAN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Enjoy your day.

**MR. MCGOWAN:**

Absolutely.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. That concludes the public portion of this hearing. And we will move to the resolutions. Mr. Morgo, you want to come up? Good morning.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

Good morning to you all. Actually, there are only two resolutions before you today that the department has been involved with. They are 1597, the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau contract and 1628, a licensing agreement for the Kiwanis Club of Greater Westhampton at the Gabreski Airport. As I said, there are two resolutions before you with which the department has been involved, and they are 1597 and 1628. And I will be glad to answer any questions on either or both.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All righty. Thank you very much.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

One thing with Legislator Montano, Rick, if you look on Page 7 of the contract, there is the description of the excess funds going in and how it would be distributed. And I just •• now that I'm here with my tie straight, I should mention that the negotiations with the LICVB were not always in agreement, but •• they were somewhat contentious, but they were always done on a level of reasonableness back and forth. I don't have to go other the sorted history of a couple of years ago with the LICVB, but because of a lot of your work and you're insisting on accountability, the relationship has

really improved. And I think we have a solid contract before you.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's what I highlighted.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Here. It caught me eye. I was concerned about the figures. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Again, from Mr. McGowan's comments, it sounds like you have quite a relationship and we appreciate the fact ••

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

As he said, I will be giving you the half year report on where they are and what they are doing, which was something that came from this Legislature, the requirement did. On 1628, this is a long standing agreement with the Westhampton Kiwanis, the president of the Westhampton Kiwanis, Jeff {Pestera} is here. This is a licensing agreement. It a carnival, and all the proceeds go to charity, children's charities. And it's just asking you to renew that license.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I understand this is the last year they will be at the airport.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

Because the Hampton Business and Technology Park hopefully will be underway, at least under construction next year.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That was a lead•in for you to say that. That's good.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

We didn't even rehearse.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Good point. Also, I want to note that Cathy Farrell, I understand is an intern with Cultural Arts.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

Keri.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Keri, I'm sorry.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

She is going to be working with the newly reinvigorated Suffolk County Film Commission. And she is going to be a film student herself at CW Post, and she was one of the winners of the First Exposure Film Competition at the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Film Commission put on. So we are very glad to have Keri.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Congratulate to Ms. Farrell on that august achievement. We welcome her as she works with Suffolk County over her internship. That's good news. And you are going to be keeping us up•to•date on the Cultural Arts Program as well.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

Indeed.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you. Let's go to tabled resolution.

**1071 (To impose moratorium on aviation related construction at**

**Francis S. Gabreski Airport pending Master Plan adoption).**

But that was tabled subject to call last meeting.

**1163 (Establishing a Task Force to study the feasibility of increasing revenues and promoting economic development by establishing a horseracing track in Suffolk County).**

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to table, please.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion to table, seconded by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed?  
Motion carries, the resolution has been tabled. **TABLED. (VOTE:6•0•0•0 •**  
**Presiding Officer Lindsay was present and voted)**

1511, Presiding Officer Lindsay would like to make a comment.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Rather than a comment, I would just like someone from the college to come up again if you don't mind, George or someone. I am, you know, a little bit perturbed that there isn't anybody here from the Building Trades to express

their concerns about this project as well. I probably know more about it than I want to know. There's two very old unions within the Building Trades; 28 of the Sheet Metal Workers and 638 of the Steamfitters, that are involved in the heating and ventilation business that are both well over 100 years ago old. And there has been quite a fierce struggle between them and the United Service Workers, which is drifting into their area as well. I think that's some of the underlying problem with this. And I think probably their concern is in two areas, and I think you've answered this already, but I'd just like to get on the record, this facility is strictly limited to maintenance of heating and •• servicing heating and ventilation systems, it isn't for installation?

**MR. GATTA:**

That is my understanding. If anyone from the college has any other information, that's my understanding of what the program is geared toward.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

If there's anything else besides maintenance here, I'd like to hear that. I was hoping you were going to say no, it's just for maintenance.

**MR. GATTA:**

That's my understanding. I wanted to make sure that I was fully informed. My colleagues have indicated that that is correct.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Is there any ••

**MR. ROONEY:**

Mr. Lindsay, if I may. There are approximately 600,000 oil heated homes and some 300,000 gas heated homes on Long Island. If you deal with a particular oil •• if you have oil heat, if you deal with a particular oil company, that company will provide heating maintenance service to your equipment, they'll come and do a tune•up each year, change whatever parts need to be changed. If you reach a point where you have a heating system that's 25 or 30 years old and it needs to be replaced, that heating oil company and its qualified service technicians will replace that equipment.

The industry as a whole and the technicians who come out of this program and who are licensed with a restricted, I want to emphasize that, a restricted plumbing and electrical license cannot install new equipment in new homes, they don't do that. They only service existing homes and existing customers. We leave that to the construction trades. And under the terms of that County license they are restricted to no more than six feet from the boiler or heating system. So they can handle the heating system and the oil tank, but beyond that, they don't do plumbing work, they don't do baseboard, they don't do duct work, they don't do anything of that nature, they don't do electrical work. It's strictly the heating system. And if it needs to be replaced, they will replace it. So, yes, it includes installation.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I appreciate that. In another life I was on the Electrical Licensing Board, so I know what you are talking about, and I appreciate that explanation. Again, my question was to the college. What we see is what we got, it's just for maintenance.



**MR. GATTA:**

Yes, it is.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And is there any way that this program can be expanded to an apprenticeship program?

**MR. GATTA:**

Let me say, we have had no discussions internally about having this become an apprenticeship program. We've had no inquiries from any trades, any unions, anyone having this become an apprenticeship program. It is not our objective nor desire to become someone's apprenticeship program. We are an educational institution, and that's our mission.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Thank you. Thank you. I'm going to make a motion to table this for one cycle to give George the opportunity to get together with the people that are objecting to this to hear it firsthand from his mouth that there is no nefarious plot here to circumvent them in any way.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much. I'll second that motion. We have discussion on the motion. Legislator Barraga has a question.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

I didn't really have a question. Mr. Lindsay has now tabled this issue. I guess my concern also was relative to any opposition to the bill and hearing, you know, some people come up and present an opposite point of view. On a personal basis, I'll probably, when we finally take up a vote on this, vote to support it. But by the same token, historically, I've seen many cases where individual bills keep on coming one after the other that affect a given entity. Not so long had ago we had a bill which was presented by quite a few of you concerning turf fields at the college. You know, that thing was going to run a million and a half. So with me you've got a choice, either you get the turf or you get the HVAC, but you're not going to get both.

So I just want to tell you upfront, I think the HVAC is probably more important to you. But in the end, you know, capital programs have to be paid by somebody, they're known as taxpayers. All right. So let's see how this, you know, filters out. But in the end, this vote, I'll support it. But if the other resolution on the turf fields comes up as an individual entity, I'll vote against it.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Legislator Barraga. Mr. Zwirn.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I good might. There's probably a good reason why there's nobody here

from the Building Trades today. They inquired of the County Exec's Office, and they were going to come down today, and I can surmise that this room would have been filled if •• we had planned on asking this bill to be tabled today. The County Executive is reaching out to Building Trades and to the College and trying to set up a meeting hopefully before the next committee session to try to work some of the concerns that the Building Trades has about this and having an impact on the apprenticeship program that they run that Presiding Officer Lindsay raised today. There are concerns that the County Executive has had. That's one of the reasons why this bill has not come up before the Legislature sooner than today. But we would like the opportunity to have that meeting to try to arrive at a common ground if possible. So we would ask that the bill tabled today.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much. Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Ben, do you think that •• we're coming back in two weeks, I believe, right?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yep.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Do you think that this will be straightened out at least in terms of the communication and knowing what their position is, the Building Trades,

within the next two weeks?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

We will find out what the Building Trade's position is certainly in the next two weeks. I don't know if there will be a meeting of the minds in the next two weeks.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's what I mean. In other words, because there's no one here from the Building Trades at the moment so we don't know what their concerns are at least not officially.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Right. And they would have been here other than the representation from the County Exec's Office that we were going to ask for this bill to be tabled.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yes, Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Ben, if you could just voice our concerns in the Legislature that we are meeting in two weeks, I for one would like to get this going one way or the other, because after that in July, as you know, we don't have meetings. And I think this is important enough, and I think that my colleagues also feel if we could just today mention that •• let's see if we could work it out for the next meeting. I for one would appreciate it.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I certainly will bring that back, Legislator Nowick. I can promise you this. If we don't work it out, I'm sure at the next meeting that the Building Trades will have representatives here at the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

And you'll keep us apprised of the situation as the next couple of weeks go by?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Absolutely.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Mr. Gatta, did you have something you wanted to add?

**MR. GATTA:**

No. I just wanted to state for the record that I did have two conversations •• three conversations with the County Executive's Office over the past two days, and I did provide the County Exec's Office with at least seven different dates over the next ten days that the College is available for full days or half days, any time to make those meetings. So we are willing and within reason, can move anything on our schedules to make those meetings happen before the next committee meeting.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much for your diligence. Mr. Zwirn, if we can help in any way, be in touch with the Presiding Officer.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I think the Presiding Officer might be involved.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I had a feeling. I'll come along if he wants me. Okay. Thank you very much. All righty. We have a motion to table **1511 (Appropriating funds in connection with the HVACR Technology and Services building (CP 2111))**. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. TABLED.

**(VOTE:6•0•0•0).**

**1597, (Approving and authorizing a contract to promote convention business and tourism in Suffolk County).**

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Cooper, seconded by Legislator Nowick. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**

**1614 (Appropriating funds in connection with the Learning Resource Center • Eastern Campus (CP 2189)).**

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion by Legislator Cooper, seconded by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**

**1623 (Appropriating funds to implement Out•of•County Tuition Payment Policy for Suffolk County Community College).**

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion by Legislator Cooper, seconded by Legislator Nowick. All in favor? Opposed? **Approved (VOTE:6•0•0•0)** .

**1628 (Authorizing use of property at Gabreski Airport by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Westhampton).**

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion by Legislator Nowick for approval, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club. Good luck, and may you have good weather. **APPROVED (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**



**M031. (Memorializing resolution in support of replacing LIPA's appointed Board of Trustees).**

Motion by Legislator Barraga, seconded by Legislator Nowick. All in favor?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Explanation.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Sure.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

George, I just quickly read this. It is replacing the appointed board with an elected board?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Right. Beginning in 2008, a 17 member board, 16 members elected from Long Island's political subdivisions and the Chairman appointed by the Governor.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I don't know enough about this. I really would like to study this more. I looked at the bill quickly. You have two sponsors, one in the Senate, Senator LaValle, the other one is Assemblyman Thiele. And I think those are the only two Long Island Legislators on the bill at the moment, I'm not sure. So I would make a motion to table it unless there's a need to get this out there right now. If anyone wants to enlighten me on that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I can't enlighten you on exactly that point, but just for future reference and certainly not against tabling the motion, is that an elected LIPA board was in the original legislation of the creation of LIPA back in 1996, '98, whatever that year was, and they had choices. And then the Governor overrode that provision of the LIPA creation back in that time. And that's where we got the present board as it sits today, but it was in the original LIPA legislation as an elected board, and it's something I would be favorable towards as well. But we'll certainly consider the tabling of this.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Well, we're coming back two weeks. By the way, I stand corrected. It looks like Assemblyman Raia is also on the bill as a sponsor.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. We have a motion to table, is there a second on the motion?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Seconded by Legislator Cooper All in favor? Opposed? So moved. Motion is tabled until the next meeting. **TABLED (VOTE:6•0•0•0)** .

**M036. (Memorializing resolution in support of requiring LIPA to provide notice to the Public Service Commission prior to implementation of rate increase).**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Do I have a motion on this?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I'll make a motion.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Montano, seconded by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. It's **approved (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**.

**M037. (Memorializing resolution in support of the Community Broadband of 2005).**

I'll make that motion, seconded by Legislator Montano. All in favor?  
Opposed? So moved. **Approved (VOTE:6•0•0•0).**

I believe that concludes our business today. Anything else to bring forward?  
Thank you very much.

**(\* THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:57 A.M.\*)**

**{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY**